

Osteospermum Serenity™

**A naturally branching, compact and mounded series
Suits pot tight production without the need for plant
growth regulators**

Exceptional uniformity and early flowering

Easy to grow, low energy crop, can grow very cool

Height 25-35cm, spread 35-50cm

Media

- Use media with good aeration, drainage and water-holding capacity.
- Like most Osteospermum, the Serenity™ series prefers a medium that will dry regularly between watering.
- A pH of 5.8 – 6.2 is optimum.

Temperature

- After transplanting, allow plants to become established for 7 - 14 days, depending on size, at a night temperature of 15 – 18°C.
- Once plants are well established and rooted in, temperatures can be lowered.
- Nights: 7 – 13°C.
- Days: 15 – 24°C.
- Avoid temperatures above 26°C.

Light

- Serenity will perform best under moderate to high light levels.

Pinching

- Serenity™ should be pinched once, as soon as they are well-rooted, to maximize branching and create a full plant, covered in flowers.
- Pinch on three leaf-pairs.
- The Ball 84 plug is already pinched once.

Pot size

- 10.5 - 13cm pot or try 3 plants in a 2 litre pot.
- Plant at or slightly above the soil line of the final container. This will reduce problems with stem and root rots.

Watering

- Keep growing media moderately moist, allowing to dry between waterings.
- Plants should not be allowed to wilt at anytime.

Fertiliser

- Use a balanced NPK fertiliser at every watering.
- Apply a higher K after about 4 weeks after transplanting.
- If grown hungry, plants will become woody and will not branch properly.

Controlling growth

- Under most conditions, Serenity™ will require less growth regulator treatments compared with other Osteospermum.
- Serenity is responsive to Daminozide as a spray.
- Apply growth regulators during the early stages of the crop before buds are visible, to avoid impact on bloom time or flower size. Ideal time is after pinching as new growth develops.
- High light levels and cool temperatures are needed for optimal habit.
- *Blue-Eyed Beauty and Red are more compact than the other colours, so would require less or no PGR treatments compared to the other colours.*

Common Problems

Insects: Thrips, Whitefly, Aphids, Scarid flies.

Diseases: *Botrytis* (Grey Mould), *Thielaviopsis*, *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia*, Powdery Mildew.

All Serenity™ Osteospermum cuttings are derived from a culture and virus-indexed stock programme.

Crop time

Flowering plants in about 10 – 11 weeks from a Ball 84 plug (pinched plug).

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Culture Information

Problems	Causes
Plant collapse	Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (<i>Pythium</i> , <i>Thielaviopsis</i>) Stem canker (<i>Botrytis</i>) Rooted cuttings transplanted too deeply
Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers	Excessive ammonium-based fertiliser Over fertilisation under low light conditions Low light and over watering, saturated media
Yellowing of young foliage	Saturated media
Foliage necrosis	High soluble salts in media Excessive water stress

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